**STUDY TITLE:** **BILAG Biologics Prospective Cohort:** **The Use of Novel Biological Therapies in the Treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).**

To whom it may concern,



**MREC Reference: 09/H1014/64**

This patient has agreed to donate blood samples for the above study by signing an informed consent form at study entry. We have full R&D approval from the <<Hospital Trust name>> for this. Please would you follow the instructions below and send us the samples in the pre-paid, pre-addressed box provided, along with the provided sample collection sheet.

**Instructions for Phlebotomist**

* Take any blood samples ordered by the patient’s doctor.
* Whilst venepuncture is in progress, please take, in the following order:
* 10 ml of blood into the plain tube for serum- red top.
* 10 ml blood into the EDTA tube - lilac top.
* 2.5 ml blood into the Tempus blood RNA tube - blue top

(*If provided. This tube is not required at the 12 Month Visit timepoint*).

* Once the blue topped tube sample has been drawn, please shake the tube vigorously for 10-15 seconds. Please also invert the purple topped tube 4-5 times to mix the anti coagulant.
* Write the patient ID number on the label of each tube.
* Place these tubes into the sealable plastic bag. Remove the silver strip and press both sides of bag firmly together.
* Put the plastic bag inside the box, ensuring that the completed sample collection form is also enclosed. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY PATIENT DETAILS (e.g. patient name, D.O.B.) WITH THESE SAMPLES.**
* Take out the security seal label. Close the box and seal it with the label securely as directed on the box.
* Please post the pre-paid, pre-addressed box containing the blood samples and collection form **directly** to the Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit at The University of Manchester via the standard postal service, where all sample processing will be performed.

If you have any questions about the study or these instructions, please do not hesitate to contact either Emily Sutton (study coordinator) or Alison Fountain (project administrator) on 0161 306 1916 at the Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit, The University of Manchester.

Thank you for your help with this.

Best wishes,



Professor Ian Bruce

Professor of Rheumatology